

***INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE***  
***November 8 - 14, 2012***

1. [Panetta: Rebalance to Asia-Pacific Region Shows Early Progress](#) (11-12-2012)
  2. [Stavridis: New Aviation Element 'New Step' for U.S., Poland](#) (11-12-2012)
  3. [State's Witkowsky at OSCE on Counterterrorism Cooperation](#) (11-12-2012)
  4. [Dempsey Confers With Crucial Pacific Allies](#) (11-12-2012)
  5. [State Dept. on Additional Humanitarian Aid for Syrian Crisis](#) (11-09-2012)
  6. [Cybersecurity Involves Federal, Industry Partners, Allies](#) (11-08-2012)
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**1. [Panetta: Rebalance to Asia-Pacific Region Shows Early Progress](#) (11-12-2012)**

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

ABOARD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT, Nov. 12, 2012 – The Defense Department’s strategic rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region is a long-term effort that is beginning to show tangible progress, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said today.

The secretary is traveling to Perth, Australia, to attend the annual ministerial consultations between the United States and Australia, known as AUSMIN. It’s his first official visit to Australia, an ally and partner to the United States for more than 60 years.

Panetta will join Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, in meetings with Prime Minister Julia Gillard and sessions of the conference.

The secretary also will meet with Defense Minister Stephen Smith and Western Australia Premier Colin Barnett before continuing on to Thailand and Cambodia on his fourth official visit to the region, three of them this year.

In a briefing with reporters on his military aircraft, Panetta characterized the region as one in which the historical sacrifices of many nations, including the United States, have not been in vain.

“We’ve obviously sacrificed a great deal in the Pacific region, and the sacrifices that have been made have produced a safer and more secure and prosperous Asia-Pacific region,” he said. “That

sacrifice led to some 60 years of stability and allowed our many allies and partners in this region to be able to rise and prosper. Many of them have been able to take millions out of poverty.”

Panetta said the region’s success is equally important to the United States’ national security and economic future.

“Looking ahead, we’re going to continue to invest in the region in order to continue the progress that’s been made,” the secretary noted, describing some tangible early results of the long-term effort.

Panetta cited the deployment of Marines for rotations to Darwin, Australia, and an effort to send littoral combat ships to Singapore.

“We have announced that we’re looking at a 60-40 split with regards to our Navy ships between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and that will ... take effect over the next few years as we go towards 2020,” he said.

The Defense Department has completed the deployment of 12 MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor transport aircraft to Japan, Panetta said, and it is working closely with U.S. Pacific Command on investing in the capabilities of several countries in the region.

“In Korea, we’ve strengthened our cooperation on space and cyberspace, and we will continue to strengthen that relationship in a very critical nation that is extremely important to our security for the future,” the secretary said.

“We’re working with the Philippines to develop a greater presence and access there and ... working to develop their capabilities,” he added.

Panetta noted he traveled to Beijing in September to improve the U.S.-China military-to-military relationship and develop a strategic dialog in key areas, and that Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter is working closely with officials in India to develop increased defense cooperation.

“But let me emphasize that the rebalance cannot just be about moving more ships or aircraft or troops to the region,” the secretary said. “Ultimately, it has to be a whole-of-government approach. That means we have to continue high-level engagements such as those with the secretary of state, the chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff and myself at AUSMIN.”

President Barack Obama also will visit the region next week, Panetta said.

“We need to continue diplomatic, economic and development assistance and engagement, and we need resourcing to ensure that this commitment is sustainable for the future,” the secretary told reporters traveling with him. He added that the hope is to continue to make new partners in the region, working with countries to develop their capabilities and opportunities for a rotational U.S. military presence.

Later this week in Bangkok, Panetta will meet with his counterpart, Defense Minister Sukampol Suwannathat, and Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Afterward, he will travel to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where he will meet with Cambodian Defense Minister Gen. Tea Banh and with defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the organization’s annual security conference.

“We want to deepen and modernize our existing partnerships and alliances,” Panetta said, “and build regional institutions, particularly working with ASEAN.”

The secretary said ASEAN can bring countries together to deal with some of the challenges in the region. “There’s a real opportunity here to make that work,” he said.

The rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region will not take U.S. attention off critical events in the Middle East, Panetta said.

“The United States is the strongest military power in the world, ... and that means ... we have to cover the threats that exist in the world -- not just in the Asia-Pacific region -- and that’s what we’re doing,” he said. “Even as we rebalance our efforts to the Pacific, we are maintaining a significant force in the Middle East to deal with contingencies there. We are still meeting our responsibilities with regards to other allies and partners in the world.”

The new defense strategy accommodates the rebalance and U.S. responsibilities elsewhere, Panetta said. “That’s why it’s very important that ... we have some degree of certainty as to what the defense budget is going to look like,” he added, “not just now, but in the next five years.”

In the meantime, Panetta said, there are new areas of potential cooperation in the Pacific.

“It’s going to take a lot of work and a lot of focus, but we are ... a Pacific nation, a Pacific power, and we’re going to remain a Pacific power,” the secretary said. “Our fundamental goal here is to work with other countries to advance the peace and prosperity of the region.

Biographies:

[Leon E. Panetta](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Travels With Panetta](#)

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## **2. Stavridis: New Aviation Element ‘New Step’ for U.S., Poland (11-13-2012)**

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13, 2012 – Lauding the standup of a new aviation detachment in Poland last week as “a new step in the U.S.-Polish military relationship,” Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis said it exemplifies the two militaries’ growing cooperation, which has extended from combat in Iraq, the Balkans, and Afghanistan to European missile defense.

In his blog post today, Stavridis, NATO’S supreme allied commander for Europe and commander of U.S. European Command, heralded the first full-time presence of U.S. service members in Poland. The new 10-person aviation detachment, based at Lask Air Base, will support combined fighter and transport operations as they are joined by up to 200 visiting airmen conducting quarterly training rotations.

“The idea is to keep a small number of our U.S. airmen ‘on the ground’ in Poland, while we rotate in F-16 [Fighting Falcon jets] and C-130 [Hercules] transport aircraft for mutual training together,” Stavridis wrote.

Beginning next year, rotational deployments of U.S. military aircraft for at least two weeks at a time will expand existing opportunities for “a rich mix of bilateral, NATO and multilateral exercises and training,” he noted.

“In a sense, this deployment celebrates over two centuries of Polish-U.S. defense cooperation,” the admiral said. He recalled the story of Count Casimir Pulaski, the Polish nobleman who helped the fledgling U.S. military as it was being organized during the American Revolution. Pulaski is remembered as the “father of the American cavalry,” and died from wounds suffered in the Battle of Savannah.

Stavridis also recognized Polish troops’ courage during World War II as they fought alongside U.S. soldiers to liberate Europe from the Nazis.

The new deployment builds on this long history, Stavridis said, bringing together the two nations’ technology, tactics and, most importantly, their people.

“As we all know, personal contact trumps everything; especially with strong, historic allies like Poland,” he wrote.

Stavridis, Assistant Secretary of Defense Derek Chollet and U.S. Ambassador to Poland Stephen D. Mull were joined at the Nov. 8 activation ceremony by Poland’s Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak, Chief of Staff Army Gen. Mieczyslaw Cieniuch and Air Force Commander Gen. Lech Majewski.

“I am truly proud of the way our defense cooperation has focused on looking to the future to ensure we are prepared for the threats and challenges our countries will face,” Chollet said during the ceremony. “As we move together into the future, we expect more U.S. boots to follow as we establish a NATO ballistic missile interceptor site at Redzikowo in 2018.”

The U.S. aviation detachment “also sends a clear message to allies and partners that the U.S. remains committed to European defense and to the principle that we are indeed ‘stronger together,’” Chollet said.

Biographies:

[Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis](#)

Related Sites:

[U.S. European Command](#)

[NATO](#)

Related Articles:

[U.S. Establishes Full-time Aviation Detachment in Poland](#)

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### **3. State's Witkowsky at OSCE on Counterterrorism Cooperation (11-12-2012)**

Anne A. Witkowsky, Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator of the Bureau of Counterterrorism  
Vienna

***U.S. Opening Remarks at the OSCE Conference on “Strengthening Regional Cooperation, Criminal Justice Institutions and Rule of Law Capacities to Prevent and Combat Terrorism and Radicalization that Leads to Terrorism”***

I would like to thank all of you, the OSCE Secretariat, including the ATU, and the Irish OSCE Chairmanship for organizing this important conference. I join them in welcoming our distinguished group of experts, a number of whom, as noted, have traveled a long distance to be here.

We deeply appreciate the Irish Chairmanship's leadership on transnational threat issues, and look forward to the continued focus on these issues under Ukraine's Chairmanship in 2013. I would like to wish the chair much success at the Dublin ministerial.

I have high confidence that this meeting will be a valuable contribution to OSCE efforts to uphold the rule of law and protect human rights while preventing terrorism.

OSCE has already demonstrated leadership in this area, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate further with our partners here in Vienna on this vital issue.

In the United States, today is Veteran's day – a day on which we pay tribute to those who defend our nation. With that in mind, I wanted to start my remarks by expressing my deepest, heartfelt appreciation to those who are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism. The value of the commitment our militaries make in the service of their countries cannot be overstated. We owe every dedicated service member our deepest gratitude.

Today and tomorrow we will be discussing the contributions of other key players in the fight against terrorism who also deserve recognition – civilian government officials and civil society representatives who equally play a critical role – often times also in harm's way.

The international community has witnessed measurable success on the battlefield against terrorists, but in the long run our concerted partnering efforts will be more effective and have a more lasting impact if we match the successes we have seen militarily with a similar level of coordinated effort on the civilian side – on both national and international levels, among governments and with civil society.

We look forward to exchanging views on how OSCE participating states and partner organizations, together with individuals and the private sector, can even more effectively contribute to the international fight against terrorism, specifically in strengthening regional cooperation, criminal justice and other rule of law capacities.

The OSCE's multidimensional, comprehensive approach, including through its institutions, its field missions, and its network of practitioners, provides a solid foundation for our work. The OSCE has a proud history of contributions to peace and security across its three dimensions, and has a capability ready and waiting to be built upon for this task.

The United States recognizes not only the OSCE's history of valuable contributions to peace and security in the region, but also its commitment to addressing new threats and challenges.

OSCE members are contributing to building counterterrorism capacity in many areas, to include countering violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism, enhancing cyber security, securing borders and improving the integrity of travel documents.

The OSCE is also a vital platform to help strengthen criminal justice and other rule of law-related counterterrorism capacities, with its multi-dimensional approach to engagement and training for government officials and civil society representatives.

We recognize the hard work of the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department and its Action Against Terrorism Unit, or ATU, which has done so much to spearhead our shared efforts by helping nations complement each other's strengths and assist in areas of challenge.

The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights or ODIHR, from whom we have just heard, also has a critical role in assisting participating States in developing and implementing human rights-compliant counterterrorism policies and practices. It is uniquely placed to help States protect human rights while fighting terrorism.

The ATU, ODIHR, and the multi-dimensional nature of the OSCE embody the core of what we seek in a comprehensive approach to helping states fight terrorism and remain resilient in the event of violence or attack.

The international community has made great strides over the past decade in tactical counterterrorism—taking individual terrorists off the streets, disrupting cells, and thwarting conspiracies. But to be effective over the long term, our national and collective efforts must also focus on strategic counterterrorism. We must examine and address the factors that encourage violent extremism, through a multilayered approach that diminishes the recruitment of new terrorists. We must place a premium on building states' capacity to address specific drivers of recruitment and radicalization.

Strategic counterterrorism also requires, among other things, that the international community strive to build governments' criminal justice capabilities, which are central to a successful counterterrorism approach.

This includes respect for international human rights norms, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law – for even as we focus on bringing terrorists to justice, we must bear in mind that there is no tradeoff between security and human rights, between stable civil society and the rule of law.

Strong and effective counterterrorism policies are not incompatible with respect for human rights. On the contrary, states that have developed robust, lawful tools for investigating and prosecuting suspected terrorists, consistent with applicable international law, are more likely to observe human rights in pursuit of these suspects. Moreover, counterterrorism efforts can best succeed when they are grounded in human rights obligations and the rule of law.

No country can effectively address the threat of terrorism alone. International partnerships have been at the heart of our success in a broad array of areas—for example, across transportation security, economic development, law enforcement, and the rule of law, to name a few. These partnerships are essential to strengthening the capacity of states to counter terrorism and violent extremism within their own borders and regions.

We must build and strengthen partnerships with governments, multilateral bodies, the private sector, and civil society. As global events over the past year have shown, these partnerships and the combined efforts we make are becoming ever more critical, as the threats we are facing become more diffuse.

Criminal justice institutions must play a larger part in the effort to counter terrorism; not only to bring terrorists to justice, but also to prevent terrorist incidents before they produce casualties, while fully respecting applicable international law and promoting the rule of law.



We must be committed to helping countries develop their internal capacity through training, cooperation, and support for the capacity building efforts of multilateral bodies like the OSCE. The United States supports endeavors that build criminal justice and broader counterterrorism capacities, including the tools available to prosecutors, investigators, judges, and prison officials. Building these capacities bolsters regional security cooperation and is essential to the long-term success of our common counterterrorism efforts.

Criminal justice systems must be able to respond to terrorist acts with fair and effective investigation, prosecution, and punishment while respecting the important role victims play in this process. Consequently, a comprehensive prevention strategy incorporates proven investigative tools and a range of criminal categories, such as attempted acts of terrorism, conspiracy, providing material support, training, incitement, and solicitation. Of equal importance is the need for a legal framework that enables effective investigations through robust cooperation among relevant government entities to include investigators, prosecutors and judges.

At the heart of this prevention strategy is cooperation. Let me provide you with two recent examples of successful collaborative efforts with our partners: the current prosecutions of Mevlid Jasarevic in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Abdeladim El-Kebir in Germany:

In the first case, the 23-year-old Jasarevic, armed with grenades and a semi-automatic weapon, opened fire on the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo on October 28, 2011. He hit the Embassy building with gunfire more than 100 times, wounding a policeman guarding the facility. After a lengthy standoff, Jasarevic was apprehended when a police sniper was able to disable him. A collaborative investigation between Bosnian and U.S. prosecutors and investigators began moments after the arrest and resulted in the identification of two other individuals involved in the planning of the assault. All three individuals were charged in Bosnia, with the FBI laboratories testing various pieces of evidence recovered in the investigation. This case is currently in trial in Sarajevo.

In the second case, German authorities arrested Abdeladim El-Kebir and three accomplices in December 2011 for plotting to commit a bombing. At the time of the arrest, authorities alleged this “Duesseldorf cell” was experimenting with explosives and detonators to build a shrapnel-laden bomb but had not yet chosen a specific target.

One of the critical pieces of evidence in the German case was a document found in the Abbottabad raid in Pakistan. After U.S. authorities analyzed the recovered documents, the significance of one document was conveyed to German authorities. The document was declassified and provided to the German prosecutor, pursuant to a formal request for assistance. This case is currently in trial in Germany.

Addressing the challenge of terrorism over the long-term demands multilateral cooperation as well. The United States remains committed to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy—and to each of its four pillars.

The United States has also helped to launch the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which is dedicated to being an engine to promote the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Forum’s Criminal Justice Sector/Rule of Law Working Group, which we are proud to co-chair, is focused on developing tools that can help interested states to implement Pillar IV of the Global Strategy. It recognizes the critical role of a rule of law-based approach to bringing terrorists and their supporters to justice within national criminal justice systems and the need to strengthen such systems.

Organizations such as the OSCE are important in helping to build a common strategy and regional cooperation. Like other regional organizations, the OSCE has been useful in building regional ownership over the UN CT framework and indigenous counterterrorism capacity at the national level, by promoting the sharing of best practices and training programs designed to help local and national leaders mitigate the conditions in which terrorism thrives.

The OSCE continues to do important work in a range of counterterrorism programming areas that the United States supports; however, the OSCE will be most successful where it contributes in areas of its comparative advantage.

The OSCE has demonstrated, for example, that it can strengthen counterterrorism capacities by conducting training programs that promote norms and standards of responsible state behavior and by sharing best practices. Its ability to engage closely with civil society leaders enables it to leverage the efforts of NGOs that have more regular access to local community leaders, victims of terrorism, and at-risk individuals, and its executive structures have a pivotal role in developing local, community-based counterterrorism initiatives.

Indeed, promoting the rule of law is a core competence of the OSCE, and we look forward to making this week's event successful. To be more effective, however, the OSCE must actively engage in other international counterterrorism efforts, such as by deepening its collaboration with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, where its members recently adopted good practices for the criminal justice sector and on the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders. In our view, the OSCE can and should become a pivotal GCTF implementing partner supporting training and otherwise promoting the implementation of these good practices throughout the OSCE region, while also providing assistance to Partner States.

To do so, OSCE policies and programs would need to place greater focus on learning how national authorities, local administrations, and civil society can prevent terrorism and terrorist-related acts by promoting the rule of law, strengthening their cooperation in bringing terrorists to justice, and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Looking to our next steps today and tomorrow, consider these key questions:

First, what are the policies and programs that OSCE can uniquely offer to promote best practices in the areas we are discussing? How can OSCE best produce practical and measurable results?

Second, how can we promote collaboration across OSCE dimensions, building the type of comprehensive effort that is needed to address the complex issues associated with strengthening criminal justice institutions and rule of law to prevent and combat terrorism?

And third, how can OSCE better promote cooperation with, and complement the work of other multilateral organizations and actors that are operating in this area already? To make the most of our resources, we must ensure we are maximizing collaboration, not only to minimize duplication of effort, but to leverage what each organization can offer.

I note that, as has been mentioned, the United States is hosting a side event tomorrow to explore some of these questions, including how new initiatives, such as the GCTF's good practices on rule of law, can bring greater coherence to international capacity-building efforts and maximize the contributions of international assistance in this area. And you will return to these questions I have just articulated in your final panel discussion.



Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide remarks this morning. I expect a robust dialogue and exchange of views over the next two days.

We look forward to continuing our participation in this important work with all of you and our partners in government, academia, civil society and the private sector.

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#### **4. Dempsey Confers With Crucial Pacific Allies (11-12-2012)**

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

PERTH, Australia, Nov. 12, 2012 – After meeting with his Australian counterpart here today, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has met with the military leaders of America's three closest allies in the Asia-Pacific region during his current overseas trip.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey met Gen. David Hurley, chief of Australia's defense force, upon his arrival for the annual ministerial consultations between the United States and Australia.

Earlier today, the chairman met with Gen. Shigeru Iwasaki, chief of staff of the Japanese joint staff. Yesterday, he met with his South Korean counterpart Gen. Jung Seung-jo following a full day of meetings in the South Korean capital of Seoul and a trip to Korea's Demilitarized Zone.

In an interview, Dempsey said the alliances among the United States, South Korea, Japan and Australia are the most enduring in the Asia-Pacific. "What I'm trying to do is rise above the very topical and tactical issues and to gain some clarity and consensus on how we can find our way forward together," he added.

Reason exists to pursue multilateral architectures in the Asia-Pacific region, "but we have to take into account their preferences," the general said. He noted that a number of significant exercises have taken place in the region, citing the Thai-hosted Cobra Gold and the U.S.-sponsored Rim of the Pacific exercises as examples of multilateral cooperation among the region's nations.

Asia-Pacific nations also are working more closely together in the counterpiracy mission from the Straits of Malacca to the Gulf of Aden.

Generally, the allies in the Pacific are comfortable with bilateral relations with the United States as a step toward multilateral relations, the chairman said.

During his trip to South Korea, Dempsey visited U.S. and South Korean troops at the Demilitarized Zone. Though he has been to Korea a number of times, it was his first visit to the frontier between the North and South.

"What I was struck by was 60 years of vigilance and partnership, and what that has meant," he said. "This generation of young Korean and American service members are following in the footsteps of previous generations. I felt damn glad to have them up there."

While he and Jung discussed the changes in North Korea, Dempsey said, they didn't dwell on them. "We took stock of activities over time, whether it's the obvious ones like the shelling of islands or the sinking of the Cheonan, or GPS jamming or the missile tests," he said. "Then we looked at not

only what we should be doing to better prepare ourselves for whatever the future security situation brings up.”

The alliance is successful, but it is going to change, the chairman said, noting that he and Jung discussed what needs to happen to transition to the strategic alliance of 2015. The United States will remain committed to the defense of South Korea, he explained, but the command relationship will change, and he and Jung discussed the path the two countries are on and what still needs to happen.

In Australia, Dempsey will join Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta in meetings with their counterparts. “This shows we are paying more attention to the Asia-Pacific,” he said. “How that will manifest itself will be determined.”

Dempsey said he expects the conversations to run the full gamut of issues both nations are concerned with, including force posture and partnering, freedom of navigation, counterpiracy, and all things that affect the maritime domain.

“I will also try to encourage a conversation about how in the Asia-Pacific there is a nexus or convergence of maritime issues with space issues with cyber issues,” he said. “This convergence is worthy of our time to think through together.”

Biographies:

[Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Travels With Dempsey](#)

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## **5. State Dept. on Additional Humanitarian Aid for Syrian Crisis (11-09-2012)**

### ***United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance for the Syrian Crisis***

Today at the Syria Humanitarian Forum in Geneva, Deputy Assistant Secretary Kelly T. Clements announced that the United States is providing more than \$34 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help those affected by the conflict in Syria. With this new assistance, the United States is providing more than \$165 million in humanitarian aid to help those suffering inside Syria and refugees in the neighboring countries. This assistance is targeting the following priority areas:

- **Winterization:** This additional funding from the United States will help meet winterization needs in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon and keep families warm during the coming winter by providing additional supplies such as blankets, heating stoves, and heavy-duty plastic sheeting to cover windows and other damaged areas of buildings housing those displaced by the Assad regime’s violence inside Syria.
- **Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Prevention:** A portion of these funds will be used to support child protection issues, psychosocial support, and education, as well as measures to prevent gender-based violence.
- **Health:** This additional funding will also support an immunization campaign that will protect up to one million children inside Syria from measles and other preventable diseases. In addition, we are increasing support for the logistical operation that allows life-saving aid to be delivered when and where possible in Syria.
- **Medical Transport:** This funding will also support the transport of wounded Syrians from the Lebanon-Syria border so they can receive the medical attention they desperately need. By

funding critical ambulatory services in Lebanon, the United States is helping fill a clear gap in existing humanitarian assistance.

U.S.-supported humanitarian assistance, excluding food assistance, has reached more than one million people inside Syria and approximately 380,000 who have fled to the safety of neighboring countries.

U.S.-funded medical care has already helped approximately 290,000 conflict-affected people throughout Syria. U.S.-funded field hospitals have performed 11,350 surgeries, and our support has trained more than 450 doctors, first responders, and volunteer medical personnel. We have provided medicines, medical supplies, and medical equipment sufficient to assist over 77,000 people inside Syria, and we are providing a wide range of supplies from simple gauze and bandages to treat wounds to advanced equipment like x-ray machines, defibrillators, and surgical tables to help address more complex injuries.

The United States is the largest donor of food assistance to Syria through the World Food Program (WFP), which is reaching 1.5 million displaced and conflict-affected persons within Syria. During the September distribution cycle, WFP food rations were distributed through more than 200 distribution points in all 14 governorates.

In addition, more than 130,000 people in Syria are being helped with U.S.-funded emergency relief supplies such as hygiene kits, infant care kits, bedding sets, mattresses, clothing, and basic household items.

The United States is aggressively pursuing all feasible options to expand the reach of humanitarian aid in Syria, utilizing both traditional and non-traditional humanitarian networks. The United States continues to pursue every available avenue to secure full, safe, and unfettered access for humanitarian organizations to provide relief supplies to the innocent children, women, and men affected by the Assad regime's violent campaign against the Syrian people.

We recognize the generosity of the governments of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and other governments for receiving those fleeing the violence in Syria and for hosting and providing assistance to those in need. We commend the efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to ease the trauma that the Syrian regime has inflicted on those fleeing the violence. The overwhelming majority of this funding is being directed to UN agencies who are ably leading the humanitarian response. We urge all donors to coordinate closely with the UN-led response to ensure that necessary assistance is reaching those in need in a timely and efficient manner.

For more detailed information on the U.S. Government's response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, please visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/crisis/syria>.

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## **6. Cybersecurity Involves Federal, Industry Partners, Allies (11-08-2012)**

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8, 2012 – The \$110 billion-a-year cyber economy has never been more vulnerable to crime and other threats, and securing the Internet against attacks demands the expertise of government agencies, industry and allies, the commander of U.S. Cyber Command said here yesterday.

Army Gen. Keith B. Alexander, Cybercom chief and director of the National Security Agency, spoke before a large audience at the Symantec 2012 Government Symposium.

The symposium examines a fundamental question: How to protect sensitive information while enabling collaboration across jurisdictions, nations, citizens and the private sector?

“Government ... operations depend on the network. If we lose that network we can’t communicate, and ... what happens when adversaries disrupt our network or the power grid or our banking institutions?” Alexander said, adding that the U.S. must work with its partners in industry and its allies to solve the problem.

“Many will ask about the roles of the National Security Agency and Cybercom in this, and how can we ensure civil liberties and privacy as well as the security of cyberspace? We can do both,” he said.

One of the first things industry and government must decide is how to make sure all companies involved in U.S. critical infrastructure -- including financial and information services and the defense industrial base -- institute the highest possible levels of computer security.

“How many companies in the United States and among our allies are at this level?” Alexander asked.

“We actually do inspections,” he added. “We inspect our government networks to see how many are at 100 percent. And the answer is, very few.”

Companies in some sectors, like banking and the high end of the defense industrial base, are “right there at the top” of computer security, the general said.

“Then you go out to some companies that are being attacked by adversaries in cyberspace and they don’t know what the threat looks like nor what they should do, and some of them are in critical infrastructure,” he added.

Nobody wants to make such an effort hard, costly or bureaucratic, Alexander said.

“The question is how do we help them?” he said. “What’s the right forum for government and industry to work together to help those companies get to the right level of security?”

Another imperative for government-industry collaboration involves gaps in computer security exploited by what are called “zero-day” attacks -- those that exploit vulnerabilities in computer applications.

Eventually, patches are created to plug the security holes, but not before adversaries have entered and damaged the network or stolen intellectual property.

Alexander used an analogy to explain how Cybercom or the NSA could help industry identify what the general called “bad packets,” or those that carry destructive payloads out on the Internet.

“Internet service providers see packets out there. We want them to be able to see bad packets and do something about them. We’ll have an examination process for every packet. And we’ll say, ‘Did you see a bad packet in the network? Tell us where it’s coming from and going to, and stop it because it’s carrying a destructive payload,’” the general explained.

“When they see that bad packet, we don’t need to know what was in the communications,” he added. “All we need to know is a dangerous packet went from point A to point B right now, and that we may need to act.”

The federal government “is not looking at the traffic,” Alexander said.

“Industry is looking at the traffic and they have to do that to own and operate these networks. We’re going to help them with signatures and other things, and they need to tell us when they need our help. But it’s got to be done in time for us to help, and that’s part of the key issue.”

At Cybercom, the general said, experts are training the cyber workforce of the future, determining roles and responsibilities of the federal agencies involved in cybersecurity and exploring a defensible architecture for the Defense Department.

“The DOD architecture, in my opinion, is not defensible per se. We’re doing our best to defend it, but we’ve made this really hard,” Alexander said. The department has 15,000 enclaves, each run by separate system administrators and each with its own firewalls, he added.

“What that means is we need to come up with a defensible architecture,” the general said, adding that “a ... virtual cloud is key to our success for a couple of areas for the Defense Department,” including for a growing number of mobile users.

Cybercom and other agencies are also working on issues related to their authority to respond to a problem, Alexander said.

The key question, he added, is what can the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, Cybercom and the NSA do to defend the country against a cyberattack, and when can they do it?

Alexander said that he, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, and FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III “have laid out lanes in the road for the government entities.”

The FBI is responsible for investigation, attribution and domestic problems. DHS is responsible, along with partners like NSA, the National Institute for Standards and Technology and the SANS Institute, for cybersecurity standards.

NSA and Cybercom have a couple of roles and responsibilities, Alexander said, including foreign intelligence.

“NSA has the best folks in the world,” the general said. “They have special skills and we want to leverage those skills to help secure cyberspace for our country and for our allies.”

Cybercom’s role “is not only to operate and defend DOD networks but to defend the country,” he said, noting Cybercom would step in if America came under cyberattack.

In the meantime, the general said, he’s concerned that attacks like the destructive August attack on computers at Saudi Arabia’s government-owned oil company Aramco are happening and “we’re spending a lot of time talking about what we should do and when we should do it.”

While there is still time, he said, “while you’re all in the room together with us ... we ought to argue it out just like we did in the election on Tuesday, come to a solution and then get going.”

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